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കേരള സർക്കാർ
Government of Kerala
2026

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കേരള ഗസറ്റ്
KERALA GAZETTE
അസാധാരണം
EXTRAORDINARY

ആധികാരികമായി പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്
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തിരുവനന്തപുരം,
ചൊവ്വ
Thiruvananthapuram,
Tuesday

2026 ഏപ്രിൽ 07
07th April 2026
1201 മീനം 24
24th Meenam 1201
1948 ചൈത്രം 17
17th Chaithra 1948

നമ്പർ
No. 1398

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, KOTTAYAM

(Present: CHETAN KUMAR MEENA. I.A.S)

ORDER

(Under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS))

No. DCKTM/2143/2026-H1 *07th April 2026.*

WHEREAS, the Election Commission of India, vide Press note No. ECI/PN/029/2026 dated 15/03/2026 has declared the schedule for General Elections to Kerala Legislative Assembly 2026 and the Election Commission of India vide Gazette Notification No.EL3/65/2026-ELEC(3) dated 16th March has fixed the hours during which the poll be taken in the constituencies as from 07:00 AM to 06:00 PM on 09/04/2026;

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AND WHEREAS, the last 48 hours before the polls are crucial for the election machinery to create a conducive environment for free and fair elections by maintaining a constant vigil in all poll-bound areas to ensure that no unscrupulous elements can engage in nefarious activities and unduly induce and influence the electors.

AND WHEREAS, Section 126 of the Representation of People Act 1951 prohibits public meetings during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll. After the closure of the campaign period, no campaign can take place within the constituency and there shall be restrictions on the presence of political functionaries, campaign functionaries, party workers, procession functionaries etc, who have been brought from outside the constituencies and who are not voters of the constituencies. Therefore, such persons should not continue to remain present in the constituency as their presence after the end of the campaign period may undermine the atmosphere for free and fair elections;

AND WHEREAS, an order under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) has to be issued regarding the ban on unlawful assemblies and the prohibition on holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India and the restrictions shall also need to be in place during the time when the polled materials are safely transported to the collection centres and thereafter to the strong rooms;

AND WHEREAS, no loud speakers fitted on vehicles of any kind or any other manner whatsoever shall be permitted to be used in the district during the said period;

AND WHEREAS, no electioneering and setting up of Election booth of the candidate shall be allowed within a radius of 100 metres from the polling station and no candidate shall set up more than one election booth beyond 100 meters of a polling station location even if more than one polling station has been setup in the same Polling Station Location or premises;

AND WHEREAS, cellular phones, cordless phones, wireless sets etc shall not be allowed in the polling stations except for Observers appointed by the commission, micro observers, and other authorised election/police officials and no arms should be carried inside the polling station;

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AND WHEREAS, cordless phones, wireless sets etc shall not be allowed inside the polling stations except for officers on duty;

AND WHEREAS, I am satisfied that there is sufficient grounds to believe that unknown miscreants and disgruntled persons may attempt to create trouble and chaos outside the polling stations and thereby interfere in the smooth and fair conduct of the polling process and may thereby cause breach of peace and public tranquillity;

AND WHEREAS, I am satisfied that there is sufficient ground for proceeding under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to prohibit the actions mentioned in the pre-para which may be detrimental to public peace and tranquillity and may pose threat to the peaceful conduct of free and fair elections;

NOW THEREFORE**,** in exercise of the power conferred upon U/s 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), I, Chetan Kumar Meena. I.A.S., District Magistrate, Kottayam do hereby promulgate a prohibitory order banning the following activities from **06:00 PM of 07/04/2026 till 06:00 AM of 10/04/2026** in the district of Kottayam to ensure free, fair and peaceful conduct of Elections:

(1) Unlawful assembly and holding any public meetings/rallies.

(2) Presence of political functionaries and campaigners who are not voters of the constituencies in the district.

(3) Usage of loudspeakers of any kind whatsoever.

(4) Displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey in any electronic media.

(5) Use of cellular phones, cordless phones, wireless sets etc within the polling Station except for Observers appointed by the Commission, micro-observers, Officers in charge of law & order, security personnel put on duty near the polling booth, Officer-in-charge of Polling duties and persons deployed for polling duty.

(6) Use of cordless phones, wireless sets etc inside the polling Station except for officers on duty.

(7) Electioneering and Setting up of Election booth within 100-meter area around the Polling Stations on the date of poll.

(8) Setting up of more than one Election booth of a candidate beyond the 100 meter distance of a polling station location even if more than one polling stations has been setup at the same Polling Station Location or premises.

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(9) Carrying of arms or indulging in show of arms in Polling Stations or Polling Station neighbourhood except those who are expressly permitted by Section 134 B of Representation of People Act 1951.

The expression "unlawful assembly" appearing in this order will not stand in the way of citizens going about their normal business and chores, voting and celebrating the festival of democracy. The order shall not deter the assembly of persons in the voting area/shopping at marketplaces/cinema halls and other places of entertainment, gathering in the normal course of work/business/marriage ceremonies /funeral rites/ gathering for private functions etc as long as they do not indulge in any illegal activities or foment trouble or cause breach of peace. This shall not restrict house-to-house visits during 48 hours in connection with door-to-door campaigning. The Order shall not apply to agencies/officials of the Government involved in the enforcement of law and order, conduct of elections and maintenance of essential services.

The emergent nature of the cases and circumstances do not permit serving of notice to the concerned in due time and hence this order is passed ex-parte u/s 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). This order shall come into force with effect from 06:00 PM of 07/04/2026 and will remain in force till 06:00 AM on 10/04/2026. Any violation of the order is punishable by legal action under section 188 of IPC and other relevant provisions of law.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this day of 07th April, 2026.

(Sd.)
District Magistrate
Kottayam

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